PATENT AF RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

ART UNIT: 3724

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

<u>Listing of Claims:</u>

<u>Listing of Claims</u>

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A trimmer comprising a cutting head housing a cutter

means, and an elongate shaft for supporting the cutting head, the cutting head connected to the

shaft by connection means permitting the cutting head to be positioned with its cutter means in

either <u>a</u> substantially horizontal <u>position</u> or <u>a</u> substantially vertical <u>position</u> without disconnecting

the cutting head and the shaft wherein the connection means defines a rotational axis a fixed axis

of rotation oriented at an angle relative to a plane of rotation of the cutter means when the cutter

means is positioned in the substantially horizontal position, wherein about which the cutting head

is rotatable adjustable relative to the shaft and rotatable about the axis of rotation so that the

cutter means is movable between the substantially horizontal position and the substantially

vertical position by an effective rotation of the cutting head [[of]] about the axis of rotation to a

position corresponding to a 120° rotation of the cutting head in one direction about the axis of

rotation or 240° in other direction relative to the axis.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

connection means is such that the cutting head is movable between positions in which its cutter

means is substantially horizontal and substantially vertical in a single movement.

Claims 3-18 (Cancelled)

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Claim 19 (Previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the connection means is constituted by a rotatable joint.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 19, wherein the rotatable joint is such that the cutting head is movable between positions in which its cutter means is substantially horizontal and substantially vertical about a single axis.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): A trimmer as claimed in claim 19, wherein the axis of rotation of the rotatable joint lies <u>in a first orientation that is substantially at 35.5° relative</u> to the plane of rotation of the cutter means <u>when the cutter means is in the substantially horizontal position</u>, and <u>the axis of rotation of the rotatable joint also lies in the first orientation lies substantially at 35.5° to the horizontal-when the cutting head is positioned with the cutter means either in the substantially horizontal or substantially vertical position.</u>

Claims 22-25 (Cancelled)

Claim 26 (Previously presented): A trimmer comprising a cutting head housing a cutter means, a motor for driving the cutter means, and an elongate shaft for supporting the cutting head, the cutting head connected to the shaft by connection means permitting the cutting head to be positioned with its cutter means either substantially horizontal or substantially vertical without disconnecting the cutting head and the shaft, wherein the connection means is constituted by a rotatable joint that is constituted by a ball-and-socket joint, wherein the ball is fixed to the cutting head, the socket is defined by a generally spherical socket portion formed at the end of the shaft remote from the hand-grippable portion, and the motor is housed within the ball, the shaft having a hand-grippable portion at a position remote from the cutting head, the arrangement being such that the line joining a point within the hand-grippable portion and the

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connection means is substantially parallel to <u>a</u> plane of rotation of the rotational axis of the cutter

means when the cutter means is generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the elongated

shaft.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 26, wherein the motor is

an electric motor.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein a rotatable

cutter line constitutes the cutter means.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 26, further comprising a

wheel rotatably mounted on the cutting head.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 29, wherein the axis of

rotation of the wheel is substantially coincident with the axis of rotation of the cutter means.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A trimmer as claimed in claim 30, wherein the radius

of the wheel is of the order of, but slightly less than, the effective radius of the cutter means.

Claim 32 (Currently amended): A trimmer comprising a cutting head housing a cutter

means, and a shaft for supporting the cutting head, the cutting head being adjustably mounted

with respect to the shaft by connection means that defines a rotational a fixed axis of rotation,

wherein about which the cutting head is rotatable adjusted relative to the shaft when the cutting

head is rotated about the axis of rotation, the connection means enabling the cutter means to be

moved between substantially vertical and substantially horizontal positions by adjusting the

position of the cutting head relative to the shaft by an effective rotation of the cutter head 120° in

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one direction <u>about the axis of rotation</u> or 240° in <u>the other another direction relative to about the axis of rotation</u>.

Claim 33 (Currently amended): A trimmer comprising a cutting head housing a cutter means, and a shaft for supporting the cutting head, the cutting head being rotatably mounted with respect to the shaft by means of a rotatable joint whose axis of rotation is oriented in a first orientation, wherein the axis of rotation in the first orientation lies substantially at 35.5° relative to the plane of rotation of the cutter means when the cutter means is in a substantially horizontal position, and the axis of rotation also lies in the first orientation substantially at 35.5° to the horizontal when the cutting head is positioned with the cutter means either substantially horizontal or in a substantially vertical position.